

SITUATION REPORT NO. 8
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: June 13, 2005 Time: 6:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Governor John Hoeven has issued a statewide emergency declaration for severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, hail and high winds and continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin, beginning April 9 and continuing.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No changes from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** During the weekend of June 11-12, several thunderstorms passed throughout southern, north central and northeastern North Dakota, compounding current conditions of saturated soils and high water tables.

The Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasted another round of rainfall expected across most of the region on June 13. The potential for heavy rain will exist from the southern half of the Red River Valley into west central Minnesota. Southeastern North Dakota was forecasted to receive between one-half to three inches of rain, accompanied by 25 miles per hour (mph) winds.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms occurred overnight on June 12 across western and south central North Dakota, mainly along and south of Interstate 94. The 12-hour precipitation totals included 0.10 inches at Bismarck, 0.53 inches at Dickinson and 0.78 inches at Hettinger.

The Grand Forks Office of the NWS reported a flood watch is in effect for southeastern North Dakota through the morning of June 14. Latest weather model indications suggest rainfall totals up to one inch in the next 24 hours.

River Statements

A flood warning for Westhope on the Souris River continues with minor* flooding near Westhope. A slow recession is beginning and is expected to continue through next week.

** See Other Information for definitions of minor, moderate and major flooding.*

A flood warning for Ludden Dam on the James River remains in effect. The river near Oakes and Ludden Dam has risen over two feet during the month of June.

River rises will continue downstream of LaMoure in Dickey County and is expected to crest by mid-week.

A flood warning remains in effect for the Red River including Wahpeton, East Grand Forks and Oslo where moderate flooding is occurring or is forecasted. Rivers across eastern North Dakota are still responding to the heavy rainfall over this past weekend.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Wahpeton	10 feet	12.53 feet @ 11:00 a.m. June 13	Crest @ 13.3 feet on June 15
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	24.43 feet @ 9:00 a.m. June 13	Crest @ 27.0 feet on June 13
Red River at East Grand Forks	28 feet	32.54 feet @ 12:45 p.m. June 13	Crest @ 41.0 feet on June 14
Red River at Oslo	28 feet	28.46 feet @ 12:15 p.m. June 13	Crest @ 35.53 feet on June 15
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	27.46 feet @ 10:00 a.m. June 13	Crest @ 36.4 feet on June 20
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	33.06 feet @ 12:00 p.m. June 13	Crest @ 40.20 feet on June 20
Goose River at Hillsboro	7 feet	11.07 feet @ 12:15 p.m. June 13	Crest at 11.5 feet on June 14
Maple River at Mapleton	902 feet	908.21 feet @ 11:30 a.m. June 13	Crest @ 909.0 feet on June 14
Sheyenne River at West Fargo	16.5 feet	17.32 feet @ 10:15 a.m. June 13	Crest @ 22.5 feet on June 16
Sheyenne River at Harwood	884 feet	885.81 feet @ 12:00 p.m. June 13	Crest @ 891.1 feet on June 17
James River at Ludden Dam	12 feet	11.84 feet @ 10:45 a.m. June 13	Crest @ 12.3 feet on June 14
James River at LaMoure	14 feet	9.33 feet @ 10:00 a.m. June 13	Crested, river trend is falling
James River at Oakes	93 feet	92.87 feet @ 9:30 a.m. June 13	Crested, river trend is falling
Souris River at Towner	52 feet	51.4 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 9	Crested, river trend is falling
Souris River at Bantry	11 feet	8.64 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 13.	Crested, river trend is falling
Souris River near Westhope	10 feet	11.0 feet @ 9:00 a.m. on June 13	Crested @ 11.9 feet on June 10

Heavy rains late last week over much of the state left fields saturated and further delayed final plantings, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Excessive precipitation and cool temperatures have resulted in possible prevented plantings of late season crops. Statewide, on average, there were

three days suitable for fieldwork. The widespread rains significantly increased topsoil moisture supplies, which were rated two percent short, 70 adequate and 28 surplus compared to the average of seven percent very short, 12 short, 67 adequate and 14 surplus.

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agriculture officials:

Cass County

The excessive rains received to date have caused the Red River to rise, resulting in the closure of the Elm Street and North Broadway Bridges, as well as the city park area where floodwaters damaged the area campgrounds and park areas. Two fairways and greens are flooded on the Edgewood Golf Course. A pedestrian walk bridge in Lindenwood Park sustained heavy damage caused by river debris and appears to be a total loss.

Grand Forks County

On June 10, the local newspaper reported heavy rain caused erosion and resulted in the severing of a fiber optic cable near Larimore along U.S. Highway 2.

Ransom County

On June 11, rain totaling up to 3.24 inches fell with an additional one inch being registered on June 13. Several homes have reporting water in basements. Crop loss is valued between 40 to 50 percent. The southwest part of the county has 15 to 20 percent of the planted cropland in standing water. An undetermined amount of crop has not been planted due to wet conditions.

Rivers throughout the county are nearing flood stage. Water is running over the roads in some locations.

Richland County

On June 11, the County Emergency Manager notified the State Operations Center of a flash flood in the city of Wyndmere that inundated several basements; approximately 30 homes sustained damage. These floodwaters threatened the city sanitary sewer system, requiring city crews have added extra pumps to remove excess water from the storm sewers.

Sioux County

On June 10, approximately four inches of rain fell within 1.5 hours, causing severe road damage and the closure of two highways for more than three hours. Rains also washed out three county roads, which remain closed. Repetitive storm activity has resulted in the washout of several major roads and numerous tons of gravel.

Pembina County

Precipitation continued on June 13 over the county, where rainfall amounts this weekend ranged from 0.44 inches to 1.10 inches, contributing to saturated

roadbeds. One farmstead north of Drayton is shoring its ringdike in anticipation of a Red River crest of 36.4 feet on June 20.

Trail County

On June 13, the County Emergency Manager reported Trail County has received between 11 and 16 inches of rain since the middle of May. The Goose River is flooding Hillsboro Park and the golf course.

Several roads and crossings are underwater and closed throughout the county. Many farm fields are flooded with several acres that have missed planting deadlines due to over saturation.

On June 11, a severe thunderstorm passed over the county with two tornadoes spotted. The cities of Mayville and Portland lost power for over one hour. Many residences within the county have basements that are continuing to hold water.

Walsh County

Rain showers over the past two weeks have left the roads in the county very saturated. The County Highway Department is identifying various levels of damage to the roads and is concerned about the sustainability for heavy traffic. Two bridges in the Forest River area have been undermined due to heavy saturation and runoff.

The Red River at Oslo is above flood stage and starting to cause flooding in the southeast corner of Walsh County, which is expected to increase through the week. Currently, County Road 2 has been closed between sections 2 and 11 of Pulaski Township.

The North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Office staff estimate 5 to 10 percent of cropland has not been planted due to wet conditions (primarily soybeans and sunflowers). Crop damage and disease are beginning to surface throughout the county due to the extreme wet conditions, primarily in the northeast corner of the county and along drainage channels and low areas.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: No changes from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The Richland County Chapter of the American Red Cross and Prante's Restaurant provided assistance to the residents of Wyndmere during the June 11 storm.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven and officials from the U.S. Agriculture Department's State Farm Service Agency are scheduled to be in Casselton and

Wyndmere on Tuesday, June 14, to tour the area by car and assess the damage that resulted from recent heavy rains and severe storms.

The Director of the N.D. Division of Homeland Security on June 13 requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security assist with a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for Small Business Administration (SBA), Individual and Public Assistance. State, tribal and local officials have conducted initial assessments in 12 central and eastern counties and the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation affected by the storms. Losses include public infrastructure and homes, as well as expenses for protective measures and debris clearance. Because of a lingering weather system the number of counties is subject to change.

On June 10, the N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) issued a press release addressing potential exposure to mold that may develop following a flood.

Cass County

Officials are currently monitoring the storm water lift stations around the clock. Elm Street and the North Broadway Bridge in North Fargo have been closed and are barricaded.

McHenry County

On June 7, the McHenry County Commission declared an emergency.

Pembina County

Officials have made sand and sandbags available through the county shop. County officials plan to conduct an infrastructure assessment on June 15. The NDSU extension agent has made moisture meters available for measuring the moisture content of wood frame construction buildings.

Richland County

The Department of Health provided assistance to officials for the city of Wyndmere who were worried the sanitary sewer was at risk of failure. City officials conducted an inventory of sandbags as 2,000 may be anticipated.

Trails County

Sandbagging continues in Hillsboro, protecting the community swimming pool. The communities of Reynolds and Hillsboro used auxiliary pumps to remove excess water from the cities' lift stations. Standing water is beginning to encroach on residential areas with a potential for increased threat pending continued rains.

Walsh County

County officials are monitoring river conditions and rain forecasts. The County Highway Department is monitoring road conditions, closing roads as needed, and marking problem areas. Forecast calls for rain through June 14.

Ward County

On June 10, county officials announced the Damage Assessment Reporting

Center extended its hours of operation of its hotline to 8:00 pm on June 10. No new operations have been initiated. Mild weather has aided significantly to recovery efforts.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous years.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The NWS lists quantitative precipitation forecasts on its website: www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/qpf2.shtml.

The NWS uses the following terminology when describing floods:

The term **Minor Flooding** is used to indicate minimal or no property damage. However, some public inconvenience is possible.

The term **Moderate Flooding** is used to indicate the inundation of secondary roads. Transfer to higher elevation may be necessary to save property. Some evacuation may be required.

The term **Major Flooding** is used to indicate extensive inundation and property damage, usually characterized by the evacuation of people and livestock, and the closure of both primary and secondary roads.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security